

They met inside an unfinished frame building to decide the principals they would invoke in claiming their freedom from Mexico. And as these brave men began to construct the language which would declare their independence from Mexico, they were in fact constructing a document which very well may have served as their death warrants. For while their declaration of independence shouted freedom for the Texans, it also declared Mexico unfit to govern and the Mexican Army immediately began seeking retribution for this act of defiance.

But like so many brave heroes before and after them, these 59 delegates were willing to pay the ultimate price for freedom.

It was a bloody and dramatic time for Texas. While the men along the Brazos River fought for the right words and ideals with which to claim Texas' independence, their fellow statesmen and warriors fought for their lives and freedom. For as the delegates along the Brazos River put pen to paper in writing Texas' declaration of independence men like Davey Crockett, James Bowie and William Travis fought to their deaths in fighting for Texas freedom at the Alamo.

Despite the defeat at the Alamo, the revolution continued. In 1842 Texas president, Sam Houston moved the nation's capital from Austin to the birthplace of Texas, Washington on the Brazos River.

Three years later, by an act of Congress, the United States made Texas part of the American Union, and Texas became the 28th state of the United States of America.

There can be no argument about the Lone Star State's contribution to American history, nor can there be any debate about that history's importance.

We must always remember where that history began for Texas. Just like so many Americans travel to Philadelphia to witness the buildings and symbols involved in America's Declaration of Independence, thousands of people every year make the journey to Washington on the Brazos to understand the depth of history and events involved in Texas' Independence.

For many Americans, this place has become a phrase acknowledging an event in Texas history long forgotten. But tonight we must remember Washington on the Brazos and Austin County as the places where the proud nation of Texas found life with a want for freedom and spirit for democracy.

Texas will always have a long and storied history, which we can never forget. We must continue to remember the commitment of those men who started a new book in Texas history as they wrote the nation of Texas into independence.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INSULAR AREAS SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would provide

greater access to an important tool for the development and growth of small businesses in Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). My legislation would expand the areas currently designated by the Small Business Administration (SBA) as Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZones) to cover the insular areas in their entirety. Not only would this legislation provide an important tool for small business growth in these economically disadvantaged areas, it would correct issues of implementation related to the current one-size-fits all criteria for designating HUBZones. This criteria disadvantages small businesses in the insular areas.

Currently, only those zones in the insular areas designated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as "qualified census tracts," are recognized by the SBA as HUBZones. Many additional zones in the insular areas would also be designated HUBZones under the program's "qualified 'non-metropolitan county'" criteria, as is the case in the 50 States, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, if not for technical issues of implementation. A principal factor of eligibility under the "qualified 'nonmetropolitan county'" criteria is a high level of unemployment in a given county. The insular areas do not subdivide into counties, nor does the Bureau of Labor Statistics collect Local Area Unemployment Statistics for Guam. Therefore, firms located in a number of financially distressed areas in these jurisdictions are deprived of the opportunity to participate in the HUBZone program, as no alternative formula is used for the "qualified 'non-metropolitan county'" criteria in the insular areas.

The purpose of this legislation is to support economic self-sufficiency in Guam and the insular areas by helping small businesses located in these jurisdictions to effectively compete for federal contract work. Over the past several years, the SBA's HUBZone program has been one of the most successful vehicles for directing federal contracts and subcontracting dollars to locally-owned small businesses. I am confident that the expertise exists among small businesses in the insular areas to successfully meet federal contracting needs, particularly for local projects. Universal HUBZone designation throughout the insular areas would provide incentives for federal agencies to utilize local firms. Considering the relative geographic isolation and unique economic challenges encountered in these areas, and the problems associated with implementing all provisions of the law in the insular areas, it makes sense to designate the entirety of these jurisdictions as HUBZones.

I look forward to working with Mr. MANZULLO and Ms. Velázquez on this legislation.

DENTON'S LINK BUS SYSTEM NAMED OUTSTANDING

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Denton's Link bus system, located

in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for its recognition as an "Outstanding Metropolitan Transit System" for 2004 by the Texas Transportation Association.

Denton's Link won the award for increasing its ridership by more than fourfold from 2003 to 2004. With better routes and an influx of new riders from the local universities—Texas Woman's University and University of North Texas—Link has helped limit congestion on our streets. The "Outstanding Metropolitan Transit Award" is given for designing and implementing programs that demonstrate innovative concepts or effect problem-solving techniques. But a company must not only initiate these programs but also successfully implement the techniques. The Texas Transportation Association also awards transit systems that enhance safety measures, make their operating systems more efficient and improve customer service.

Denton's Link sets a wonderful model for other Texas public transit systems looking to make improvements. I am proud of the Denton public transportation system and citizens of Denton who continued to better their community through the use of Denton's Link.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF GUADALUPE COUNTY COMMISSIONER JUDY COPE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedication of Guadalupe County Commissioner Judy Cope for her civic service.

Judy Cope graduated from MacArthur High in San Antonio, and went on to attend the College of the Mainland, receiving a degree in criminal justice. She has put her training to work as a special investigator, compliance officer, gang issues coordinator, and concealed handgun instructor.

Commissioner Cope's experience has not been limited to law enforcement; she has held positions in various different fields. Early in her career she worked as an accountant, owned a feed and tack store, assisted with operations at her husband's construction company, and held a state real estate license for 21 years.

She now puts this tremendous diversity of experience to work for the citizens of Guadalupe County. She is a strong believer in government transparency and accountability, and she has worked hard to help the public be more involved in county government.

Mr. Speaker, Guadalupe County Commissioner Judy Cope's efforts to enforce the law, forge community ties, and open government to the public are worthy of praise, and I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize her work publicly.

RECOGNITION OF ARMY
SPECIALIST JACOB PALMATIER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Army Specialist Jacob Palmatier who was recently killed in action fighting for freedom in Iraq.

Palmatier was a 29-year-old from Springfield, Illinois who served as an Army Specialist assigned to the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division based at Fort Benning, GA. Palmatier went to Springfield's Lutheran High School and later entered Illinois College, where he graduated magna cum laude with a degree in English. He excelled in languages, learning to speak fluent Japanese as well as some Norwegian, Russian and French. He had been in Iraq for less than a month when he was killed outside of Baghdad by a roadside bomb.

Palmatier is survived by his wife Bridget of Rochester whom he married in 2003 and his parents David and Margaret Palmatier of Springfield. I am proud of the service this young man gave to our country and the service his fellow troops perform every day. Not enough can be said about Army Spc Palmatier. It is troops like him that are risking their lives day in and day out to ensure our freedom here at home and to others throughout the rest of the world. I salute him and my best wishes go out to his family and all the troops fighting to ensure freedom and democracy.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO JOHN
KAUFFMAN ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to Mr. John Kauffman, upon his retirement as the Managing Editor of the Advertiser-Tribune Newspaper in Tiffin, Ohio.

John Kauffman, like many young Americans, entered his adulthood by proudly serving his country as a member of the United States Navy. After John's enlistment, he attended and graduated from The Ohio State University where he was an integral part of the student newspaper, The Lantern.

Upon graduation, John embarked on his journalistic career at the Ypsilanti Press in Michigan and later served as Editor of the Kenton Times. Then in 1981, John accepted his current position as Managing Editor of the Advertiser-Tribune where he has provided constant leadership.

Drawing upon his past experiences, John has brought stability and journalistic integrity to a newspaper which has seen tremendous changes. As Managing Editor, John remained cognizant of the Advertiser-Tribune's rich history which can be traced to 1832 with the be-

ginnings of the Seneca Advertiser and its predecessor, the Seneca Patriot. With this rich history in mind, John has displayed great leadership by effectively communicating the mission at hand and adapting to the ever changing world around him.

Through John's drive and leadership, the Advertiser-Tribune instituted a Sunday edition in 1989, daily publishing in 1990 and converted to a morning publishing cycle in 1992. After 23 years of distinguished service to the residents of Tiffin and Seneca County, John leaves behind the legacy of a paper inspired by dedication and compassion.

In addition to John Kauffman's commitment to the Advertiser-Tribune, he has shown an unwavering desire to be an active participant in his community. Whether it is his activity in his local church, or his participation in the League of Women Voters' candidates' night, John has continued to lead by example.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Mr. John Kauffman. Our communities are well served by having such honorable and giving citizens, like John, who care about their well being and stability. We wish John and his family all the best as we pay tribute to one of Ohio's finest citizens.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
GUADALUPE COUNTY JUDGE
DONALD SCHRAUB

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor County Judge Donald L. Schraub for his years of contribution to the Guadalupe County community as an educator, business professional and county judge.

Born in LaVernia, Texas, Judge Schraub graduated from LaVernia High School. He attended the University of Texas at Austin and earned a Bachelors Degree in Zoology and a Teaching Certificate.

Before becoming an elected official, Schraub committed years in education and business. Judge Schraub started as a biology teacher in Midland, Texas before returning to the Seguin Independent School District to teach Earth Science. After getting a Master's degree in Education, Schraub continued to serve the school district by becoming a school counselor.

Schraub then worked 12 years for the Wholesale Beverage Distribution Company. Following his retirement from business, Schraub returned to be a school counselor in the Nixon Independent School District.

As the current Guadalupe County Judge, Schraub has aimed to provide a stable, well balanced fiscal base for the county while insuring the needs of the taxpayer are met. In the Alamo Area Council of Governments, Judge Schraub serves on the Housing Finance, Planning and Program Development, and Rural Area Judges Committees.

In his spare time, Judge Schraub likes to hunt, fish, and go camping. Married to his wife Gloria for 16 years, Schraub and his family also enjoy attending the local Christ Lutheran

Church. His family has attended the same Christ Lutheran Church for four generations.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize Judge Donald L. Schraub, and to thank him for his years of public service and positive influence on both the young and old of our community.

RECOGNIZING JESSICA POPE'S AP-
POINTMENT TO THE DISTRIBUTIVE
EDUCATIONAL CLUBS OF
AMERICA'S INTERNATIONAL
TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Jessica Pope of Little Elm High School, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for her win of the Distributive Education Clubs of America's (DECA) state competition. Winning this competition puts her on DECA's International Team competing in Anaheim, California later this spring.

I congratulate Jessica Pope for this outstanding achievement. Jessica first had to qualify for the state competition through a series of tests and district competitions. At the state competition, Jessica excelled past the 100-question test plus a role-playing event, which Jessica completed in front of a panel of judges. Out of about 150 contestants in Jessica's event, she was named one of the top nine.

Jessica's teacher, Diana Reynolds, also deserves recognition because she urged Jessica to compete at the Distributive Education Clubs of America events. Teachers, like Ms. Reynolds, encourage our youth to perform at their highest potential helping to build a better America.

I am proud of the education system in Texas, especially our involved parents and teachers at Little Elm High School, who commit their lives and time to fostering growth in their students. Jessica is a stellar example of how our combined efforts are paying off. Congratulations to Jessica, her parents, Diana Reynolds and Little Elm High School.

INTRODUCING THE AMERICAN
SOVEREIGNTY RESTORATION
ACT OF 2005

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the American Sovereignty Restoration Act. I submitted this bill, which would end United States membership in the United Nations, in the 106th, 107th, and 108th Congresses and if anything, conditions have made its relevance and importance more evident now than ever. The United Nations assault on the sovereignty of the United States proceeds apace; it shows no signs of slowing. Mr. Speaker, since I last introduced this measure, the United Nations has been embroiled in